



Here's a hell of a love tale

Hellraiser — he'll tear your soul apart — is billed as a love story beyond the grave.

That's what writer, novelist, illustrator, playwright, scriptwriter and now film director Clive Barker says is the essence of his 'fast-moving, intelligent horror movie, filled with demons, haunted houses and things coming back from the dead'.

But he stresses his movie is no exploitive 'stalk 'n' slash' film.

"The best horror movies touch genuine nerves — things that disturb us," Barker said.

"It's a universal form. Horror travels well," he said.

Barker complained the industry had moved towards the infantile in horror pictures in a desire to soften the blows.

"I hope this time we're going to get tough again," he said.

"Hellraiser is unapologetically a horror film.

"I hope it's going to have an impact simply because it deals with the same areas of passion and perversity which mark my fiction.

"We've got a story that is emotionally very involving, motivations which are real and, I think perform-

ances that are tremendous.

"We also have some of the most outrageous and outlandish monsters seen on the screen for a very long time."

Barker has been termed the 'enfant terrible' of Britain's horror fiction and admits to having always been interested in horror in one form or another.

"It was always the grisly bits in fairy tales that I was interested in," he said.

Hellraiser is an involving tale of love, lust and demonic dealings.

Breathless

It is set in a familiar domestic household setting but one that steadily escalates in horror, climaxing in a confrontation with evil that Barker promises will leave audiences both elated and breathless.

"Hellraiser is about desire," he said.

"It's about people desiring something they can't have and the consequences of desire pushed to the limits and then beyond.

"It's about a guy who does a deal with the Devil — or forces beyond our



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comprehension — and is torn apart for his pains.

"His mistress, his brother's wife, decides to resurrect him by murdering men so their life forces can be transferred to him."

The cast list indicates there are at least three victims as his mistress murders for the sake of love.

That love is put to the test through a mysterious puzzle box, which promises the ultimate in pleasure when opened, but in reality unleashes demons from hell.

These demons, Cenobites, can only satisfy their cravings by obtaining the body and soul of those who have entered their realm.

Barker was determined

to combine visceral scares with high-quality performances.

"It's not the kind of picture where you find the 12 best looking youths in California, then murder them," he said.

"We've cast people because they are marvellous actors — then we've murdered them."

Sounds macabre, but then that's what this film's all about.

Greater Union Cinema's state manager Bruce Hawkins said box office results of last Sunday's advance screening were excellent.

Hellraiser is playing at the Albert Cinema, Mermaid Cinema Centre and Capalaba, Keperra and Ipswich drive-ins.

